

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Amended) A method for ~~cutting compounded rubber for~~ conducting a
2 reflected light measurement of the dispersion of fillers ~~therein,~~ in a sample of
3 compounded rubber comprising the steps of:
4 subjecting a sample of compounded rubber to a dynamic pulling force, the
5 compounded rubber having reinforcing fillers therein; and
6 ~~cutting the sample for the purpose of analyzing, through reflected light~~
7 ~~measurement, the dispersion of fillers within the sample, said cutting step occurring~~
8 while the sample is subjected to the dynamic pulling force, thereby creating a cut
9 surface having bumps and indentations present as a result of the movement of the
10 reinforcing fillers in said step of cutting the sample; and
11 reflecting light off of the cut surface of the sample of compounded rubber
12 whereby at least some of the light reflects off of the bumps and indentations to
13 contact a sensor.
- 1 2. (Amended) The method ~~for cutting compounded rubber~~ according to claim 1,
2 wherein the sample of compounded rubber is cut in air in said step of cutting.
- 1 3. (Amended) The method ~~for cutting compounded rubber~~ according to claim 1,
2 further including the step of pressing a portion of the sample of compounded rubber,
3 prior to subjecting the sample to a dynamic pulling force, to free the pressed portion
4 from entrapped air, the subsequent cutting occurring at the pressed portion of the
sample.
- 1 4. (Amended) The method ~~for cutting compounded rubber~~ according to claim 3,
2 wherein the sample of compounded rubber is cooled concurrently with said step of
3 pressing.
- 1 5. (Amended) The method ~~for cutting compounded rubber~~ according to claim 4,

1 wherein said steps of pressing, cooling, subjecting to a dynamic pulling force, and
2 cutting ~~may be~~ are carried out in less than 4 minutes.

1 6. (Amended) The method ~~for cutting compounded rubber~~ according to claim 1,
2 wherein the sample of compounded rubber contains neither curing agents nor
3 accelerators.

1 7. The method ~~for cutting compounded rubber~~ according to claim 1, wherein the
2 dynamic pulling force is ~~effective~~ affected by pulling opposed ends of the sample of
3 compounded rubber away from each other at a constant rate.

1 8. The method ~~for cutting compounded rubber~~ according to claim 1, wherein the
2 sample of compounded rubber is ~~stained~~ strained by about five to ten percent by the
3 dynamic pulling force before the cutting step begins.

9. CANCEL

10. CANCEL

1 11. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preparing
2 the sample of compounded rubber for said steps of subjecting to a dynamic pulling
3 force and cutting by pressing a hot sample of the compounded rubber against a base
4 plate having a cooling element that cools the base plate so as to speed the cooling of
5 the hot sample of compounded rubber during the pressing thereof.

Amendment of the Drawings:

In accordance with the Examiner's instructions, Figures 1 and 2, in the replacement sheets enclosed herein, are now labeled as "Prior Art." In Fig. 1, numerals 110 and 112 point to cut surfaces. In Fig. 2, numeral 110 is drawn to a cut surface, and in Figs. 3 and 4, reference numeral 28 is drawn to the lock plate. Replacement sheets are enclosed. The figures submitted here are also formal patent figures, while those submitted originally were informal. No new matter is added.